

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0138

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG

SUBJ: NPG - FORCE POSTURE ISSUES AND NIKE HERCULES

REF: (A) USNATO 0024 (DTG 061725Z JAN 76), (B) USNATO 0107
(DTG 101225Z JAN 76)

1. AT BRIEF NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING ON JANUARY 12 TO MAKE FINAL REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE HAMBURG MINISTERIAL, THE QUESTION OF WHAT MINISTERS MIGHT DISCUSS UNDER AGENDA ITEM III (FORCE POSTURE ISSUES) WAS AGAIN RAISED. US REP REPEATED PREVIOUS ANSWER (REF A) THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION AFTER THE MEETING, BOTH UK AND FRG REPS EXPRESSED CONSTERNATION THAT THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC ADVANCE INFORMATION ON THIS US-INSPIRED AGENDA ITEM WHICH THEIR MINISTERS COULD USE TO PREPARE FOR THE MEETING. THEY RECOGNIZED THAT THE US SECDEF WOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS DISCUSSION BUT SAID THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THEIR MINISTERS TO ENGAGE IN A CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION OR TO OFFER HELPFUL COMMENTS. US REP REITERATED THAT NUNN REPORT TO CONGRESS PROVIDED GOOD BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR THIS AGENDA ITEM. HE
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SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF LIKELY CONTENT OF PROPOSED SECDEF REMARKS, WHICH IN ANY CASE HE UNDERSTOOD WERE STILL IN PREPARATION.

2. COMMENT: WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TNF IMPROVEMENT PAPER

WILL NOT BE RELEASED PRIOR TO THE HAMBURG NPG MEETING, IT
NONETHELESS MIGHT HELP SATISFY ALLIES' DESIRE FOR ADVANCE
INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT IF WE CAN INFORM THEM OF GENERAL
TOPICS THAT SECDEF INTENDS TO COVER UNDER AGENDA ITEM III.
END COMMENT.

3. SEVERAL STAFF GROUP REPS REFERRED TO RECENT MEETING OF
TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON AIR DEFENSE (TSGAD) (REF B), AND NOTED
REFERENCE TO THIS STUDY EFFORT IN SYG LUNS PO ON NPG FUTURE
WORK (PO/75/128, PARA 6). CHAIRMAN (SHEARER) SAID THAT SYG LUNS
WOULD PROBABLY SPEAK TO QUESTION OF NUCLEAR NIKE HERCULES,
IN LIGHT OF PREVIOUS NPG MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT.
UK REP SUGGESTED THAT MINISTERS MIGHT WISH TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS
TO THE CHAIRMAN, MC, ON STATUS OF TSGAD STUDY AND RELATION TO
SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR NIKE HERCULES. SEVERAL REPS OBSERVED THAT
AT THIS STAGE IT DID NOT APPEAR THAT THE TGSAD STUDY WOULD
ADDRESS NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF AIR DEFENSE. STREATOR

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